

At page 25, the second full paragraph is amended as follows

It will be appreciated that the compounds of the invention can be synthesized according to a variety of synthetic steps with reactants other than those discussed herein, which variations are well known in the art at the time of filing. Polymers of the invention can be synthesized by a mechanisms including addition and condensation reactions. In some embodiments, polymer synthesis can be accomplished by living polymerization. Living polymerization can include the growth of a polymer chain that remains reactive until a reagent is added to quench the reaction. An example of a reaction that can be carried out as a living polymerization is the polymerization of an alkene monomer with an anionic reactive species. In this example, the reactive species can have one or more reactive anionic sites that will react with the alkene monomer but not with each other. In contrast, reactive radical sites in a free radical polymerization process can react with each other to terminate a reaction. A possible consequence of the living polymerization, where active centers can be initiated at the same time, react at the same rate and are quenched-at the, is that polymer chains synthesized by this process are generally characterized by narrower molecular weight distributions, and have more uniform chain lengths, and have a greater potential to remain reactive until quenching.

At page 33, the second full paragraph is amended as follows:

In other preferred hydrolytically susceptible polymers polyanionic polymers, containing carboxylates, for which a sampling of the carboxylate-providing monomers (e.g., 1 of 20) are derivatized to attach $-X-R^4-Y-H$ via an amide, ester or thioester bond, where X and Y are independently S, O, NH and R^4 is a straight chain C_1-C_{10} (preferably C_1-C_5) alkyl which can be substituted with up to two C_1-C_4 alkyls. Preferably, X and y are different to provide differential reactivities that facilitate selective addition of one end to the polyanionic polymer. However, protecting group chemistry (see illustrations in copending ~~Attorney Docket 3145782-103C~~ application serial number 09/644,121, filed August 23, 2000) can be used to achieve this selective attachment even if X and Y are the same. Michael addition with a crosslinkers (linking moieties) with terminal acrylate or acrylamide moieties. Thus, the linking moiety has the structure: